GT 6/16/93

Rights fight may boost turnout for gay pride parade

By **Louis Aguilar**/Gazette Telegraph

As the center of the Colorado controversy over gay rights, Colorado Springs could see a dramatic increase in participation in this year's gay pride parade.

Thousands, perhaps. But probably not the 10,000 predicted by Denver activists, local organizers said.

"Ten thousand people would be great, but it is very unrealistic," said Chris Baka, one of the organizers of the parade. "But you can say Colorado Springs has become a very important place to show gay pride."

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>
> **parade organizer Chris Baka**

Baka estimated between 2,000 and 5,000 people will participate in Sunday's Pikes Peak Pride Parade. Still, that's an increase over the 200 that joined the first parade and last year's 500 marchers.

Organizers attribute the expected increase to Amendment 2, created by Springs-based Colorado for Family Values. Passed by state voters in November, the measure would ban laws that protect gays from discrimination based on their sexual orientation. The measure is on hold, pending a court fight over its constitutionality.

The city and the state have faced a national backlash by gay rights advocates who say the amendment is mean-spirited and discriminatory. Thus, the city has earned the dubious title of "epicenter of hate."

That has spurred expectations of a large turnout Sunday. Parade participants will gather at 10:30 a.m. at the intersection of Cache La Poudre and Tejon streets, march over to North Nevada Avenue and then south to Acacia Park, where a rally is planned from noon to 3 p.m.

Some expected participants are Pikes Peak residents who, just last year, were afraid to tell some of their closest friends they were gay. Local groups such as Ground Zero and Citizens Project, formed in part because of Amendment 2, also will participate.

There also will be drag queens and perhaps some bad boys in leather - the image of homosexuality that gay rights opponents often focus on.

Those portrayals of gays are deliberately skewed, said parade co-organizer Tami Gaylor. "There's no denying that gays and lesbians are a diverse culture," she said. "But it's like if we used images of the Mardi Gras parade (in New Orleans), or prostitutes and strippers to represent what all heterosexuals are like."

But, ideally, the organizers of the parade said they would like it to provide a chance for people in the Pikes Peak region to meet their gay and lesbian neighbors.

"It would be nice if people came out and saw us and say 'Oh, what a bunch of normal people,' " Baka said. "That could help this debate a lot."

Park Loch Ness Mo prey on people in l

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cently, he spent eight years at the Denver Zoo, creating animal habitats.

"That's my real love," he said. "It's nice to actually build something and see what you did is going to work."

It will take about 90 days from start to finish for Pursell to build the mountain at McNulty's. First, he goes to the mountains, finds a nice rock formation and covers it with a rubber latex. When he peels it off, he has a master mold. He sprays the mold with a foam to strengthen it. He takes that to his manufacturing workshop in Ellicott and sprays a product called GFRC — glass fiber reinforced concrete — into the mold.

The mountain-in-making is then erected on a steel foundation, covered with a wire mesh and sprayed again with concrete and foam.

Once dry, Pursell ch away at the concrete, the effect he desires. P and shrubs are then ad

The water will fall i pond where a Loch Nes ster — created by McN art director Susan Nich — will prey on folks in boats.

Nicholson started th ster with concrete tube had a spider web of reb truding from them.

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She used chicken wir form the shape of the m

"I didn't just want hi a blue worm in the midd the pond," Nicholson sa wanted him to be green scaly, with seaweed han from his mouth."

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CITY/REGION

Women report survey actually lewd calls

Gazette Telegraph

Six Colorado Springs women have been the victims of phony telephone calls by someone who says he's conducting a breast cancer survey for the American Cancer Society.

The man or men behind the calls Monday and Tuesday used the name David Brown or Scott Mairs, the American Cancer Society said.

The conversations quickly degenerated into crude comments, a spokeswoman for the American Cancer Society in Colorado Springs said.

The calls are more than a sexist prank — they are a crime, according to the 4th Judicial District Attorney's Office. If caught and convicted, the caller could face up to four years in prison and a $100,000 fine.

Anyone with information about the calls or the identity of the caller is urged to contact the Colorado Springs Police Department, 444-7000, or the District Attorney's Consumer Affairs Division, 520-6002.

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